

The Central Visitor

A weekly visitor to your home bringing you news from Central Christian Church
Our mission ... Sharing Christ,
Changing Lives, Delivering Hope

Vol. XCII

Decatur, Illinois, November 11, 2020

No. 45



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Obtain your Advent Candles (and Wreath) Now...

Advent 2020 begins on Sunday, November 29 (the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend). This is the season that encompasses the 4 Sundays prior to Christmas and helps us prepare spiritually for Christ's coming. For Advent at Central Christian 2020, we are asking you to pay attention to the following:

1. Order NOW your own advent wreath with candles OR just the advent candles. See Page 3 for a few links to show you some options. There should be 4 candles (3 purple and 1 pink). You may or may not include a wreath with those candles, and you may prefer votives to tapers, but either way, make your plans to purchase your own. During this pandemic of 2020, we have some creative ways of uniting our congregation around the advent candles (both the in-person and the on-line) with some activities that you can do at home with your household as you prepare for Christmas.
2. We plan on supplying you (the church family household) with a litany that you can recite and pray each weekend of Advent! This will be the SAME litany that we will be speaking during worship that Sunday morning! This way, you and your household can:
 - a. Participate in the litany on Sunday morning as you watch online worship
 - b. Or... if you are attending in-person worship that day, you can re-create that litany with your household at some other time that weekend.

Note: *The important thing is that you purchase your advent candles and/or wreath now (due to possible back-orders). We (the church) are only offering these links (on page 3) as suggestions for the kinds of things to have ready by 11/29/20 (the first Sunday of Advent), and if you already have your own advent candles and/or wreath, feel free to use them.*

Another note: *if you have difficulty ordering things online, feel free to call Kathleen in the church office and she can assist you...*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2020

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP LIVE
STREAMED ON
WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG
AND IN-PERSON - SANCTUARY
AT 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP ON
FACEBOOK LIVE
AND IN-PERSON - GREAT HALL
AT 9:15 a.m.

On the Road: At the Crossroads

Text: Matthew 25:14-27
Michael E. Karunas

All Saints Books available

Copies of the All Saints book are available now at the church office. You may pick one up at the church, or you can call the office (217-428-4336) to request one to be mailed to you.



2020 Thanksgiving Offering

From the very beginnings of the movement, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning, encouraging students in their intellectual pursuits. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education.

On November 15 and 22, Disciples churches across the US and Canada will collect the Thanksgiving offering. In the midst of national and global challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, our higher education institutions are facing unprecedented challenges and need our support now, more than ever. Even as they work diligently to ensure safe and healthy learning environments, the financial realities faced by many of our schools is adding additional stress to students, faculty and staff.

This November, please give generously to this year's Thanksgiving offering. Your gifts make a world of difference as Disciples continue our legacy of supporting education and our institutions of higher learning.

In Sympathy We Mourn

In sympathy, we mourn with the family of Helen Crew, who passed away on October 18th, 2020. Helen was living in Iowa at the time.

Additionally, we mourn with the family of Helen Henderson, who passed away on October 30th, 2020. Helen was living in Michigan at the time.

Please join us in prayers for their families during this difficult time.



COVID Update

Given the time of my time away from Decatur last week and the announcement of this news from our state officials, we could not get this announcement in last week's Visitor; therefore, we share it here. This is the same announcement as was emailed and posted at the end of last week.

As you are probably aware by now, Macon County has been put under Resurgence Mitigations due to the COVID-19 pandemic as of November 1, 2020. After consultation and conversation with the Macon County Health Department, we learned that the 25-person limit on social gatherings does, in fact, pertain to houses of worship in general and worship services in particular. As we have publicly shared with you – the church family – from the beginning of this pandemic, our church leadership committed to erring on the side of caution and following the guidelines handed down by our local, regional and state authorities. Therefore we plan to remain consistent with this practice and abide by the latest round of directives.

What does that mean for us, beginning this Sunday, November 8 (until further notice)?

- Fortunately, due to our already-in-place precautions, not much. We still plan on having in-person worship (with all of the usual guidelines in place – temperature checks, masks, hand-washing, social distancing).
- We will continue to offer an outstanding online option as well (with all services live-streamed). Given that, if you are in any way hesitant about in-person worship, this would be an ideal time to remain at home on Sundays and support Central through virtual attendance.
- For the in-person worship community, we are looking at adding additional safety measures that ensure that we abide by the 25-person gathering limit.

Your pastoral staff, congregation president, and congregation vice-president understand that this latest news likely adds to the overall sense of fatigue many of us feel regarding the current pandemic, but we are committed to keeping our congregation together through these difficult times, and trust in your understanding and willingness to be flexible to allow that to remain a most realistic possibility.

If anyone wishes to speak more about this – with either myself or the congregational president (Gregg Foltz) or vice-president (Brett Swallow) – please don't hesitate to let me know. I will be happy to direct you accordingly. Thank you for your continued commitment to, and support of, Central!

Blessings... Michael

Mark Your Calendars

We are planning to have a church work day this Saturday, November 21st, at 9:00 AM. We will be raking leaves and doing general clean-up of the property. Many hands make light work for everyone.



Suggestions for ordering your Advent Wreath and candles

Advent wreath with candles

<https://www.amazon.com/Candle-Advent-Wreath-Gold-Finish/dp/B00481JS82Advent>

Advent votive candles (without holders)

[https://www.catholicgiftsandmore.com/product/advent-votive-candle-set-af070s?](https://www.catholicgiftsandmore.com/product/advent-votive-candle-set-af070s?gclid=CjwKCAiAv4n9BRA9EiwA30WND7c14Zl_Wj2yiISxs4GuGJE211Bb3UpT_QAA)

[gclid=CjwKCAiAv4n9BRA9EiwA30WND7c14Zl_Wj2yiISxs4GuGJE211Bb3UpT_QAA](https://www.catholicgiftsandmore.com/product/advent-votive-candle-set-af070s?gclid=CjwKCAiAv4n9BRA9EiwA30WND7c14Zl_Wj2yiISxs4GuGJE211Bb3UpT_QAA)
[OqVV7_BdNRzWE2SLBhoCb9YQAvD_BwE](https://www.catholicgiftsandmore.com/product/advent-votive-candle-set-af070s?gclid=CjwKCAiAv4n9BRA9EiwA30WND7c14Zl_Wj2yiISxs4GuGJE211Bb3UpT_QAA)

Advent votives (with holders – flameless)

[https://www.autom.com/product/Flameless-Advent-Votive-Set-4-sets-pk-YC387?](https://www.autom.com/product/Flameless-Advent-Votive-Set-4-sets-pk-YC387?gclid=CjwKCAiAv4n9BRA9EiwA30WND0jLfgqOHT_xmZk4_DOZW306ScSCF9pOm)

[gclid=CjwKCAiAv4n9BRA9EiwA30WND0jLfgqOHT_xmZk4_DOZW306ScSCF9pOm](https://www.autom.com/product/Flameless-Advent-Votive-Set-4-sets-pk-YC387?gclid=CjwKCAiAv4n9BRA9EiwA30WND0jLfgqOHT_xmZk4_DOZW306ScSCF9pOm)
[eCZ_EliDXhgVK9mXa9lhoCWkEQAvD_BwE](https://www.autom.com/product/Flameless-Advent-Votive-Set-4-sets-pk-YC387?gclid=CjwKCAiAv4n9BRA9EiwA30WND0jLfgqOHT_xmZk4_DOZW306ScSCF9pOm)

Advent tapers

[https://www.autom.com/product/brass-advent-wreath-6-pk-B3829?](https://www.autom.com/product/brass-advent-wreath-6-pk-B3829?gclid=CjwKCAiAv4n9BRA9EiwA30WNDw37qcHn5eTa1RSjqEooMKbbG_WgDLO2)

[gclid=CjwKCAiAv4n9BRA9EiwA30WNDw37qcHn5eTa1RSjqEooMKbbG_WgDLO2](https://www.autom.com/product/brass-advent-wreath-6-pk-B3829?gclid=CjwKCAiAv4n9BRA9EiwA30WNDw37qcHn5eTa1RSjqEooMKbbG_WgDLO2)
[OzBoqkicSCmll50yVai0DhOCFwcQAvD_BwE](https://www.autom.com/product/brass-advent-wreath-6-pk-B3829?gclid=CjwKCAiAv4n9BRA9EiwA30WNDw37qcHn5eTa1RSjqEooMKbbG_WgDLO2)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Did you know... that Central awards educational scholarships annually from five endowment accounts? In 2020, awards totaled \$9,000 and were distributed to nine deserving individuals.

Two Spiritual Growth Opportunities During “On the Road” Sermon Series

Accompanying the new “On the Road” sermon series are two (2) opportunities for you to further your own spiritual growth and connect more deeply with the theme.

- Every **Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m.**, Scott and Vicky Woolridge are hosting a virtual (Zoom) small group called “**Sharing the Journey.**” To join the small group discussion for any of the Sundays, simply contact the church office for the Zoom link the week prior. Please let us know if you would like to join this journey or have questions.
- Every **Tuesday evening at 5: 30 p.m.**, our pastors will present a **10-minute** bible lesson on the scripture passage from the previous Sunday. This will be a **Facebook Live** presentation.

Hope you can participate in as much of these opportunities as you are able.



Good Samaritan Inn
GROWING BETTER TOGETHER

PLEASE SUPPORT THE GOOD SAMARITAN INN EMPTY CHILI BOWL ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

- SPONSOR THE EVENT AND RECEIVE PERKS AND POSITIVE P.R.
- COLLECT ORDERS FROM YOUR OFFICE AND GET LUNCH DELIVERED
- ORDER DINNER PICK IT UP AT THE INN
- DONATIONS ACCEPTED

VISIT WWW.GOODSAMARITANINN.ORG TO PLACE ORDERS, DOWNLOAD OFFICE ORDER FORMS, DONATE, AND LEARN MORE!

ALL PROCEEDS CHANGE LIVES THROUGH THE GOOD SAMARITAN INN'S NOON MEAL, JOB TRAINING, AND MERCY GARDENS PROGRAMS.



Sunday (15)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream

9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live

10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream

12:00-Praise Team rehearsal, G. Hall

4:00-Youth Group In-Person

Monday (16)

10:00-Operations Committee, C. Café

6:00-Pastoral Support Comm., C. Café

Tuesday (17)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, Disciples Room

10:30-Youth Staff Meeting

5:00-Women's Group, Disciples Room

Wednesday (18)

10:30-Ministers' Meeting

5:30-Koinonia, Connection Café

5:30-Church Council (Business)

Thursday (19)

10:00-Alanon, Ramp area

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

5:15-Brass Choir, Disciples Room

Friday (20)

Saturday (21)

Sunday (22)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream

9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live

10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream

12:00-Praise Team rehearsal, G. Hall

4:00-Youth Group In-Person

Counting On You

Sunday, November 8, 2020

Total worshipping online = 448

Total worshipping in-person = 141



November 15th Volunteer schedule

7:45 – 9:30

Front table – Hannah Brimner, Carolyn McCall, Gail Prince

Ushers – Pamela Bednar, David Martin

9:00 - 10:00 Usher

Cheryl Zollinger

9:30 – 11:30

Front table – Linda Helton, Janet Lyman,

Christine Lyman-Harm

Ushers – Gretchen Kirby, David Martin

Elder - Gail Prince, Janet Lyman

PA - 8:00 - Donna Dash; 10:30 - Jim Hinze



Happy Birthday!!

Birthdays this coming week (11/15-11/21)!

Cathy Ash, Sha’ron Browning, Elizabeth Doxsie, Karen Driver,

Jill Heick, Mackenzie Larrick, Nick McLemore, Esther Murray,

Hazel Perry, Cindy Soebbing

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Michael E. Karunas.....Senior Minister
 Don Martin.....Minister of Music
 Tina Miller..... Associate Minister of CE & Family Life
 David Martin.....Youth Director
 Cordelia “Dee Dee” GainOrganist
 David Williams.....Organist
 Kathleen Dudley.....Administrative Assistant
 Yvonne Boyd.....Administrative Assistant
 Hannah Brimner.....Social Media Coordinator
 Gabrielle Coulthard.....Nursery Attendant
 Maddie Genz.....Nursery Attendant
 Cheryl WilliamsNursery Attendant
 Kattina WilliamsNursery Attendant
 Paula Partain.....Preschool Staff
 Lora WrightLead Caretaker
 Jim Denzer.....Caretaker
 Andrew Evans.....Caretaker
 Toby Jones.....Caretaker

Temporary Church Office Hours as of

July 20th, 2020:

Monday through Friday

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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